

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 080369

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ARDAY:MAR

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:ALATHERTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 080369

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EG, LE

SUBJECT:LEBANESE SITUATION

1. PLEASE CONVEY TO MOBAREK FOR SADAT AND FAHMY THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON OUR ACTIVITIES WITH RESPECT TO LEBANON.

2. AMBASSADOR BROWN HAS SEEN FRANGIE, GEMAYEL, CHAMOUN, KARAME, AND OTHER POLITICAL AND MILITARY FIGURES. HE IS SCHEDULED TO SEE JUMBLATT TODAY. THE PRESS IN LEBANON GAVE HIM A WARM WELCOME, FROM ALL SHADES OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM INCLUDING JUMBLATT. AMERICAN JOURNALISTS IN TOUCH WITH THE PLO TOLD US THAT OPINION EVEN IN THAT QUARTER WAS POSITIVE AS REGARDS BROWN'S MISSION.

3. BROWN RECEIVED VARYING IMPRESSIONS OF THE CAPACITY OF THE CHRISTIANS TO HOLD OUT IF FIGHTING SHOULD RESUME. THE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 080369

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP WAS CONCERNED AND SOME SPOKE OF A NEED

FOR OUTSIDE SUPPORT, THOUGH THEY WERE NOT VERY POSITIVE ABOUT AN INTER-ARAB FORCE. THE MILITARY ON THE CHRISTIAN SIDE WERE MORE CONFIDENT, BUT THEY SPOKE OF A NEED TO USE AMMUNITION SPARINGLY WHILE THE LEFTIST COALITION SEEMED TO HAVE UNLIMITED SUPPLIES.

4. PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANT, FRANGIE TOLD BROWN IN PRIVATE THAT HE WAS WILLING TO RESIGN AND TAKE "A BADLY NEEDED REST", AFTER THE CONSTITUTION WAS AMENDED AND A NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED UNDER CONDITIONS FREE OF PRESSURE. HE SAID PALESTINIAN OBSERVANCE OF THE CAIRO ACCORDS WAS ESSENTIAL TO ANY PERMANENT CEASEFIRE.

5. WE ARE OF COURSE HEARTENED AND RELIEVED BY THE AGREEMENT ON A CEASEFIRE AND HOPE THAT ALL FRIENDS OF LEBANON WILL ENCOURAGE THE WARRING FACTIONS THERE TO MOVE PROMPTLY TOWARDS A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT THAT COULD ENSURE LASTING PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE COUNTRY. WE ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THE JUMBLATT COALITION, WITH ITS CURRENT MILITARY SUPERIORITY, MAY DEMAND TOO MUCH POLITICALLY AND MAY THEN RENEW FIGHTING TO BACK UP ITS DEMANDS. IN SUCH A SITUATION THE DANGER OF A SYRIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION WILL BECOME VERY SERIOUS. IF A POLITICAL SOLUTION CAN NOW BE WORKED OUT WITHOUT FURTHER FIGHTING, WE ASSUME THE SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON WILL DIMINISH RATHER THAN INCREASE.

6. WE BELIEVE BROWN HAS MADE A GOOD START AND WE WILL KEEP THE PRESIDENT AND FAHMY CURRENTLY INFORMED OF HIS PROGRESS. AS ALWAYS, WE WILL WELCOME THEIR SUGGESTIONS AND VIEWS ABOUT BROWN'S ACTIVITIES AND THE CRITICAL PROBLEM IN LEBANON ITSELF. KISSINGER

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